— Several petrol pumps have been identified to supply unleaded petrol in Delhi from 1st April 1995 for new four wheeler petrol driven vehicles fitted with catalytic converters.

(d) The main sources of noise pollution are industries, automobiles, domestic appliances, construction equipments, reckless use of loudspeakers, aircraft operations and bursting of crackers during festivels. The Departments which are functioning to control noise pollution are as follows :

(—) Ministry of Environment & Forests—under section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(—) The State Pollution Control Boards or Pollution Control Committees in the Union Territories.

(—) The local authorities as per provisions of local laws.

Exploitation of Rare Dolphins

2188. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appeared in the Times of India dated 2nd October, 1994 regarding commercial exploitation of rare dolphins in the Ganges threatening their habitat; and

(b) if so, what measures have been taken to check it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Gangetic dolphin is threatened because of pollution in the rivers, incidental netting during fishing and some poaching. However, the species is fully protected under the law against hunting and commercial exploitation. Under the Ganga Action Plan, several schemes are being implemented to control pollution in the river which would improve the habitat for the dolphin. A stretch of 50 Km. of the ganges in Bihar, extending from Sultanganj to Kahalgaon has been constituted into the Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary for the conservation of this species. The State Govts. of Assam, Bihar, U.P., M.P. and Rajasthan have been asked to ensure through their fisheries departments that accidental deaths of dolphins do not occur during fishing operations, dolphin oil is not used for fishing and to step-up awareness programmes for the conservation of river dolphins and their habitat.

Regeneration of Wastelands

2189. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board under the Ministry of Environment and Forests propose to formulate a time-bound strategy for afforestation and regeneration of wasteland in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board (NAEB) is responsible for promoting afforestation, tree planting, ecological restoration and eco-development activities in the country. Special attention is being given to the regeneration of degraded forest areas and lands adjoining forest areas, national parks, sanctuaries and other protected areas as well as the ecologically fragile areas like the Western Himalayas, Aravallis, Western Ghats, etc.

In this endeavour, NAEB implements, through the State Government/Union Territory agencies and Non-Government Organisations, following schemes :—

(i) Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Projects Schemes;

(ii) Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project Schemes;

(iii) Non-timber Forest Produce Scheme including Medicinal Plants;

(iv) Seed Development Schemes;

(v) Aerial Seeding Scheme;

(vi) Grants-in-Aid Scheme to Voluntary Agencies.

The strategy of NAEB is to encourage afforestation and eco-development on integrated watershed management approach basis. One of the objectives of the schemes of NAEB is to provide replicable area specific afforestation and eco-development models based on appropriate scientific techniques for different eco-climatic zones. Towards this end, NAEB has taken initiative of involving local communities and Non-government organizations for conservation and management of degraded forest areas as also for formulation and implementation of projects and schemes at micro level for eco-restoration of eco-fragile areas in the country.

Generation of Hazardous and Toxic Chemicals

2190. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :